

REMARKS

The Examiner has requested restriction to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-17, 19, drawn to a medical chair, and
- II. Claim 18, drawn to a medical procedure.

Applicant elects the medical chair of Group I, and claim 18 is therefore withdrawn from consideration.

Having elected Group I, Applicant, pursuant to the Examiner's instructions, elects the species of a medical chair with a pivotable push bar. The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 is generic. Thus, claims 1-6 are generic, claims 7-13 are readable on the elected species. Claim 17 is also readable on the elected species.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant has attached a set of claims 1 through 19 wherein the elements of the claims are identified by numerals that relate to the application drawings. These numerals should not be entered into the pending claims, and neither a published application nor an issued patent based on this application should include claims having such numerals.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

In the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP CLAIMS WITH REFERENCE NUMERALS

Serial No. 10/750,442

1. A medical chair (10) comprising:
 - a seat section (24);
 - a radiolucent back rest (30) pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that it may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired positions in relation thereto; and
 - a back rest actuator (60) to selectively position said radiolucent back rest (30) in relation to said seat section, wherein said back rest actuator (60) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest (30).
2. The medical chair (10) of claim 1, wherein said back rest actuator (60) is located beneath said seat section (24).
3. The medical chair (10) of claim 2, wherein said back rest actuator (60) is controlled electronically.
4. The medical chair (10) of claim 3, wherein said back rest actuator (60) is controlled through a remote control (80), so that said radiolucent back rest (30) is positionable from points distant from the medical chair.
5. The medical chair (10) of claim 2, wherein said back rest actuator (60) functions to adjust the angle of extension of said radiolucent back rest (30) in relation to the plane of said seat section, wherein the angle of extension of said radiolucent back rest (30) may range from substantially perpendicular to the plane of said seat section (24) in a chair configuration to substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) in a stretcher configuration.

6. The medical chair (10) of claim 1, wherein the medical chair (10) further comprises:
 - a leg support section (26) pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that it may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired positions in relation thereto; and
 - a leg support actuator (34) that functions to adjust the position of said leg support section (26) in relation to said seat section, wherein the position of said leg support section (26) may range from substantially perpendicular to the plane of said seat section, in a chair configuration, to substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section, in a stretcher configuration, wherein said leg support actuator (34) and said back rest actuator (60) are located beneath said seat section.
7. The medical chair (10) of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a push bar (102) pivotally attached to said radiolucent back rest (30) to move between an operative position, wherein said push bar (102) is used to maneuver the medical chair, and a storage position, wherein said push bar (102) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.
8. A medical chair (10) comprising:
 - a radiolucent back rest; and
 - a push bar (102) pivotally attached to said radiolucent back rest (30) to move between an operative position, wherein said push bar (102) is used to maneuver the medical chair, and a storage position, wherein said push bar (102) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.
9. The medical chair (10) of claim 8, wherein said push bar, in said storage position, does not obstruct the proper positioning of said medical chair (10) in radiographic and fluoroscopic machines.
10. The medical chair (10) of claim 8, further comprising:
 - a back rest actuator (60) to selectively position said radiolucent back rest (30)

in relation to said seat section, wherein said back rest actuator (60) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.

11. The medical chair (10) of claim 8, further comprising a locking mechanism (114) that selectively locks said push bar (102) in its operative position, said push bar (102) being pivotally attached to said radiolucent back rest (30) by said locking mechanism.
12. The medical chair (10) of claim 8, wherein the medical chair (10) further comprises:
 - a seat section;
 - a leg support section, said leg support section (26) and said radiolucent back rest (30) being pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that they may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired angles in relation to the plane of said seat section;
 - a leg support actuator (34) that functions to adjust the angle of extension of said leg support section (26) in relation to the plane of said seat section, wherein the angle of extension may range from substantially perpendicular to the plane of said seat section (24) in a chair configuration of the medical chair (10) to substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) in a stretcher configuration of the medical chair; and
 - a back rest actuator (60) that functions to adjust the angle of extension of said radiolucent back rest (30) in relation to the plane of said seat section, wherein the angle of extension of said radiolucent back rest (30) may range from substantially perpendicular to the plane of said seat section (24) in said chair configuration to substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) in said stretcher configuration, and wherein said leg support actuator (34) and said back rest actuator (60) are located beneath said seat section (24) and do not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.

13. The medical chair (10) of claim 12, further comprising:
 - a foot rest section (48) pivotally secured to said leg support section (26) about an axis and providing a foot platform (52);
 - a foot rest link (54) secured between said foot rest section (48) and said seat section, wherein said foot rest link (54) maintains said foot platform (52) substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) as said leg support actuator (34) functions to adjust the position of said leg support section (26) in relation to the plane of said seat section.
14. A medical chair (10) comprising:
 - a seat section;
 - a leg support section (26) pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that it may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired positions in relation thereto; and
 - a leg support actuator (34) that functions to adjust the position of said leg support section (26) in relation to said seat section, wherein the position of said leg support section (26) may range from substantially perpendicular to the plane of said seat section, in a chair configuration, to substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section, in a stretcher configuration;
 - a foot rest section (48) pivotally secured to said leg support section (26) about an axis and providing a foot platform (52) that remains substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) as said leg support actuator (34) functions to adjust the position of said leg support section (26) in relation to the plane of said seat section.
15. The medical chair (10) of claim 14, further comprising a foot rest link (54) secured between said foot rest section (48) and said seat section, wherein said foot rest link (54) maintains said foot platform (52) substantially parallel to the plane of said seat section (24) as said leg support actuator (34) functions to adjust the position of said leg support section (26) in relation to the plane of said seat section.

16. The medical chair (10) of claim 14, further comprising:
 - a radiolucent back rest (30) pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that it may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired positions in relation thereto; and
 - a back rest (30) actuator to selectively position said radiolucent back rest (30) in relation to said seat section, wherein said back rest actuator (60) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.
17. The medical chair (10) of claim 14, further comprising:
 - a radiolucent back rest; and
 - a push bar (102) pivotally attached to said radiolucent back rest (30) to move between an operative position, wherein said push bar (102) is used to maneuver the medical chair, and a storage position, wherein said push bar (102) does not compromise the radiolucent property of said radiolucent back rest.
18. A method for performing radiographic and fluoroscopic procedures on a patient, the method comprising the steps of:
 - supporting the patient in a medical chair (10) comprising:
 - a seat section,
 - a radiolucent back rest (30) pivotally secured to said seat section (24) such that it may selectively extend from said seat section (24) at desired positions in relation thereto; and
 - a remote control (80) that controls the positioning of said radiolucent back rest (30) relative to said seat section (24) so that said radiolucent back rest (30) is positionable from points distant from the medical chair;
 - provisionally positioning the medical chair (10) in a radiographic or fluoroscopic machine so as to provisionally position the patient supported thereon for a radiographic or fluoroscopic procedure; and
 - adjusting the positioning of the medical chair (10) and patient supported thereon with said remote control.

19. A medical chair (10) comprising:

a base (12);

a seat section (24) supported over said base (12) on a telescoping column such that the seat section (24) is selectively raised or lowered in relation to said base (12);

at least one side rail (200) on said seat section (24) and movable between a use position, where it extends upwardly from said seat section, and a storage position where it extends downwardly from said seat section;

means (702-710) for rotating said seat section (24) relative to said base (12), wherein said seat section (24) rotates to a position where said at least one side rail, in its storage position, rests between said base (12) and said seat section; and

a control switch (712) preventing the selective lowering of said seat section (24) relative to said base (12), when said seat section (24) is rotated to the position where said at least one side rail, in its storage position, rests between said base (12) and said seat section.